Death in Jehangirpuri due to Choked Sewer

1220. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent death of a person in Jehangirpuri in Delhi due to marsh gas which had accumulated in choked sewers;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the incident to fix responsibility for the callousness of the civic authorities; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (c) Delhi Police have reported that on 4-3-1989 one Shri Ram Desar of Jahangir Puri had gone to ease himself in the public latrine where he lit a match for smoking and was cought by flames resulting in burn injuries. He succumbed to the injuries in the hospital on the following day. The postmortem of the dead body was waived on the request of the members of the family of the deceased. They did not make any further complaint and therefore no further action was taken. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have reported that no evidence of any marsh gas was found in the latrine block which has 24W.C. seats with two septic tanks.

Dumping of Garbage and wastes Across the Back of Nizamuddin Tomb

1221. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that across the back of Nizamuddin Tomb and between Ring Road and the Yamuna river a lot of garbage and wastes are being dumped and if so, the details thereof and the names of the authorities who have approved this dumping site;

(b) whether this is likely to pollute the river further and also contaminate underground water and pose a threat to those using handpumps water; and

(c) whether the Central Water Pollution Board, Delhi, is siezed of this problem and if so, what action has been taken by them; and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Powers to Press Council

1222. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Times of India dated 12th February, 1989, regarding paucity of funds for Press Council; and

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the Press Council Act, the Council has no legal authority but only moral authority and if so, whether Government propose to give it legal authority or disband the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government have seen the news item. While addressing the journalists in Nagur, the Chairman, Press Council had

casually mentioned about the paucity of funds during the interregnum between the non-receipt of fees payable by newspapers and the release of grants-in-aid by the Government.

(b) Section 15(1) and Section 15(3) of the Press Council Act, 1978 confers on the Council the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 and every enquiry held by the Council shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meanings of Sections 193and 228 of IPC. However, the Council does not have any legally enforceable sanction behind its pronouncements. The purpose of the PCI is to maintain the standard of newspapers and preserve freedom of the Press.

The power of censure under Section 14 of the Act should itself be a sufficient deterrent and preventive measure. The verdicts of the Council have been generally accepted. Having regard to the positive role being played by the Press Council. the question of its disbanding does not arise. The existing legal provisions are considered adequate.

नया गांव स्थित सीमेंट के कारखाने तथा खोट दामोदरपुरा स्थित विक्रम सीमेंट फैक्टरी में कुशल और अकुशल कर्मकार

1223. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** *क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:*

(क) 1 जनवरी, 1989 की स्थिति के अनुसार, मन्दसौर जिले में नया गांव स्थित सीमेंट के कारखाने तथा खोट दामोदर पुरा स्थित विक्रम सीमेंट फैक्टरी में कार्यरत कुशल व अकुशल कर्मकारों की संख्या कितनी है तथा उनमें से कितने कर्मकार जावड़ और नीमच तहसीलों से हैं तथा बाहरी से आये कर्मकारों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पट्टेनामे में मौजूद शर्त के बावजूद इस प्रकार के किसानों के परिवारों के सदस्यों को, जिनकी भूमि उक्त कारखानों के लिए अधिगृहित की गई थी, प्राथमिकता के आधार पर अभी तक रोजगार नहीं दिया गया है और इसकी बजाय इन कारखानों में खाली पदों पर बाहरी क्षेत्रों के कर्मकारों की भर्ती की जा रही है और यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार मामले में कुछ कार्यवाही करने तथा पट्टेनामें में दिये गये निबन्धों और शर्तों का उपर्युक्त कारखानों द्वारा अनुपालन किये जाने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को निदेश जारी करने का विचार रखती है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री राधा कृष्ण मालवीय) : (क) से (ग) सूचना राज्य सरकार से एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Danger to Health due to Pesticides Residue in Fruits and Vegetables

1224. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news report citing findings from USA which highlight dangers posed to human health by pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables as reported in the newstime dated 1st March, 1989 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether similar warnings have been given by the National Core-group meeting held at New Delhi on 20th and 21st February, 89 by the Voluntary Health Association of India;